



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Agricultural  
Marketing Service

1400 Independence  
Avenue SW

Washington, DC  
20250-0260

Poultry Programs

May 7, 2001

All Poultry and Egg Suppliers

### **NOTICE TO THE TRADE – MAY 2001**

#### **DOMESTIC ELECTRONIC BID ENTRY SYSTEM**

Last school year, the Commodity Procurement Branch began accepting electronic bids for poultry and egg products through its Domestic Electronic Bid Entry System (DEBES). So far, only a small number of vendors are submitting bids electronically. Submitting bids electronically streamlines the bid award processes thereby expediting contract award. As stated in our April 2001 Industry Meeting, bids submitted on and after October 1, 2001, for all poultry and egg products **must be transmitted electronically through DEBES screens.** Therefore, all vendors are encouraged to begin submitting bids through the DEBES website <https://pcsd.usda.gov:3077/mdbc1000.exe?>.

**Offers submitted on and after October 1, 2001, by any means other than DEBES will be considered nonresponsive.**

Attached is a copy of the Poultry Programs Vendor Identification (ID) and Password Authorization, which must be completed prior to submitting bids.

The software requirements are as follows:

- Browser requirement: Netscape 4.07 or above (OR) Internet Explorer 5.0 or above
- Encryption: Browser capable of handling 128-bit encryption

Using Internet Explorer, this can be found by accessing **Help/About Internet Explorer**. The display should include the line **‘Cipher Strength: 128-bit’**. If it does not, download a new browser version from Microsoft at <http://www.microsoft.com>.

Using Netscape, this can be found by accessing **Help/About Communicator**. Somewhere on the screen the following will appear:

This version supports U.S. security with  
RSA Public Key Cryptography, MD2, MD5,  
RC2-CBC, RC4, DES-CBC,  
DES-EDE3-CBC.

If it does not, download a new browser version from Netscape at <http://home.netscape.com/download/index.html?cp=djucc4>. Choose the Strong 128-bit Encryption version for your download.

- Vendor bid Internet **production** site port location: <https://pcsd.usda.gov:3077/mdbc1000.exe?>
- Vendor bid Internet **practice** site port location: <https://pcsd.usda.gov:3050/mdbc1000.exe?>
- Proxy servers: Vendors must set up their proxy server to allow access to the above Internet production and practice ports.

Most connection problems will be the result of an improper browser version, not using 128-bit encryption, and not having the above ports accessible through your Corporate proxy server. The proxy server must be set up to allow HTTPS protocol through the appropriate port; Vendor Practice is port 3050 and Production is port 3077. The Internet Service Provider your company uses can also affect connections.

If you have already received a Vendor ID and Password, but have not successfully submitted bids through DEBES, or if you have any other questions or concerns, please contact Ron McNeel on (202) 720-7693.

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Dennis J. Pearson  
Contracting Officer

Attachment